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A SPECTRAL MAPPING THEOREM  
FOR THE EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION,  
AND SOME COUNTEREXAMPLES

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A SPECTRAL MAPPING THEOREM FOR THE EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION  
AND SOME COUNTEREXAMPLES

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ABSTRACT

Elementary proofs are given for the (known) theorems that (1)  $\sigma(A) \in \text{Superscript } A$  if  $A$  is the generator of a  $C_0$ -semigroup  $\{e^{tA}\}$  of linear operators on a Banach space  $X$ , and that (2)  $e^{\sigma(A)} = \sigma(e^A) \setminus \{0\}$  if  $\{e^{tA}\}$  is a holomorphic semigroup. Also a large class of strongly continuous groups  $\{e^{tA}\}$  on a Hilbert space  $H$  is given such that  $\sigma(A)$  is empty. Note that  $\sigma(e^A)$  is not empty, and is away from zero, if  $\{e^{tA}\}$  is a group. Some related remarks are given on the relationship between the spectral bound of  $A$  and the type of  $\{e^{tA}\}$ .

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Key Words:  $C_0$ -semigroups, holomorphic semigroups, spectral mapping theorem, spectral radius, spectral bound, type.

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## SIGNIFICANCE AND EXPLANATION

If one solves a system of linear differential equation  $dx/dt = Ax$ , where  $x = x(t)$  is an  $n$ -vector and  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, the solution may be written  $x(t) = e^{tA}x(0)$ . Here the matrix  $e^{tA}$  may be given by the Taylor series  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^k A^k / k!$ , or it may be more easily computed if the Jordan canonical form of  $A$  is known. In any case if  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  (some of which may be equal) are the eigenvalues of  $A$ , then  $e^{\lambda_1 t}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n t}$  are the eigenvalues of  $e^{tA}$  (this is a special case of the so-called spectral mapping theorem).

It follows that the growth rate of  $x(t)$  in any norm is at most exponential:  $\|x(t)\| \leq M e^{\omega t} \|x(0)\|$  for  $t \geq 0$ . The infimum of all possible  $\omega$  is called the type of the semigroup  $\{e^{tA}\}$ , and will be denoted by  $\text{type } A$  in the sequel. The spectral mapping theorem mentioned above implies that  $\omega = \max\{\text{Re } \lambda_i\}$ , which is called the spectral bound of  $A$  and will be denoted by  $\text{spb } A$ . Thus one has the relation  $\text{spb } A = \text{type } A$ .

If the matrix  $A$  is replaced with a linear operator  $A$  in an infinite-dimensional Banach space  $X$ , one can still solve  $dx/dt = Ax$  for  $x = x(t) \in X$  under certain conditions on  $A$ , to obtain a unique solution  $x(t) = e^{tA}x(0)$  for  $t \geq 0$ .  $A$  is called the generator of the semigroup  $\{e^{tA}\}$ . Many problems in linear partial differential equations can be covered by semigroup theory. Here again one can define  $\text{type } A$  via the optimal growth rate for  $\|x(t)\|/\|x(0)\|$ , and  $\text{spb } A$  using the spectrum  $\sigma(A)$  of  $A$  rather than the eigenvalues. It turns out, however, that the spectral mapping theorem (which would now take the form  $\sigma(e^{tA}) = \sigma(A) \setminus \{0\}$ ) need not hold and, consequently,  $\text{spb } A$  and  $\text{type } A$  are in general different.

Nevertheless, we show that the previous results are true for a special class of generators  $A$ , which are roughly those appearing in parabolic partial differential equations. Also we give a wide class of counterexamples, which are not at all pathological, in which  $-\infty = \text{spb } A < \text{type } A < +\infty$ .

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The responsibility for the wording and views expressed in this descriptive summary lies with MRC, and not with the author of this report.

A SPECTRAL MAPPING THEOREM FOR THE EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION,  
AND SOME COUNTEREXAMPLES

Tosio Kato

§0. Introduction

Let  $A$  be a linear operator in a complex Banach space  $X$ . Consider the mapping  $A \mapsto e^A$  and the validity of the spectral mapping theorem

$$(0.1) \quad \sigma(e^A) = e^{\sigma(A)},$$

where  $\sigma$  denotes the spectrum.

According to the general spectral mapping theorem, (0.1) is true if  $A \in B(X)$  (bounded linear operators with domain  $X$ ). If  $A$  is unbounded, (0.1) need not be true even when  $A$  is the generator of a strongly continuous group  $\{U(t) = e^{tA}; -\infty < t < \infty\}$ . A striking counterexample is given in Hille-Phillips [1, p. 665], in which  $U(t)$  is the Riemann-Liouville fractional integration of the imaginary order it on  $X = L^p(0,1)$ . Here  $\sigma(A)$  is empty but  $\sigma(e^A)$  is nonempty and is away from zero.

On the other hand, Hille-Phillips [1, p. 460] shows that (0.1) is true (except for zero) if  $A$  is the generator of a semigroup  $\{e^{tA}; t \geq 0\}$  which is norm-continuous for  $t \geq \gamma$  for some constant  $\gamma > 0$ . The proof in [1] is difficult, however, based on the Gelfand theory of normed rings.

The purpose of the present note is twofold. First we give an elementary proof of the Hille-Phillips theorem in the special case when  $A$  generates a holomorphic semigroup. We shall then give a wide class of generators  $A$  of groups for which  $\sigma(A)$  is empty, including the fractional integrals mentioned above as a special case.

§1. A spectral mapping theorem.

We begin with a one-sided inclusion in (0.1) for the generator of a  $C_0$ -semigroup.

Theorem 1. Let  $A$  be the generator of a semigroup  $\{e^{tA}; t \geq 0\}$  of class  $C_0$ . Then  $e^{\sigma(A)} \subset \sigma(e^A)$ .

Remark. This is a special case of Corollary 2 to Lemma 16.3.2 of [1, p. 457], in which  $A$  may be the generator of any semigroup of class  $A$ . But our proof is elementary and short.

Proof. For any complex number  $z_0$ , set

$$(1.1) \quad T = e^{z_0} \int_0^1 e^{t(A-z_0)} dt \in B(X).$$

Since  $(A-z_0)e^{t(A-z_0)}u = (d/dt)e^{t(A-z_0)}u$  for  $u \in D(A)$ , it follows on integration that

$$(1.2) \quad T(A-z_0) \subset (A-z_0)T = e^A - e^{z_0}.$$

If  $e^{z_0} \in \rho(e^A)$  ( $\rho$  denotes the resolvent set), (1.2) gives

$$(1.3) \quad (A-z_0)^{-1} = (e^A - e^{z_0})^{-1} T \in B(X),$$

so that  $z_0 \in \rho(A)$ . In other words,  $z_0 \in \sigma(A)$  implies  $e^{z_0} \in \sigma(e^A)$ , q.e.d.

Theorem 2. Let  $A$  be the generator of a holomorphic  $C_0$ -semigroup. Then  $e^{\sigma(A)} = \sigma(e^A) \setminus \{0\}$ .

Remarks. (a) By a holomorphic  $C_0$ -semigroup we mean a semigroup of class  $C_0$  which has an analytic continuation to a sector containing the positive  $t$ -axis. It is known (see [1, Theorem 12.8.1]) that  $A$  generates such a semigroup if and only if  $\rho(A)$  contains a sector

$$(1.4) \quad \Sigma = \{z; |\arg(z-\gamma)| < \omega\},$$

where  $\gamma$  is a complex number and  $\omega > \pi/2$ , and

$$(1.5) \quad \|(z-A)^{-1}\| \leq M_\varepsilon |z-\gamma|^{-1} \quad \text{for } |\arg(z-\gamma)| < \omega - \varepsilon$$

for each  $\varepsilon \in (0, \omega)$ .

(b) Removing 0 from  $\sigma(e^A)$  in Theorem 2 is natural since  $e^{\sigma(A)}$  never contains 0 but  $\sigma(e^A)$  may well do.

(c) Theorem 2 is a special case of Theorem 16.4.1 of [1].

Proof. In view of Theorem 1, it suffices to show that

$$(1.6) \quad \sigma(e^A) \setminus \{0\} \subset e^{\sigma(A)}.$$

In the proof we may assume  $\gamma = 0$  in (1.4), (1.5) without loss of generality.

To prove (1.6), it suffices in turn to show that

$$(1.7) \quad 0 \neq \zeta_0 \notin e^{\sigma(A)} \text{ implies } \zeta_0 \in \rho(e^A).$$

To this end we first note that

$$(1.8) \quad e^A = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C_0} e^z (z-A)^{-1} dz,$$

where  $C_0$  is a curve in  $\Sigma$  running from  $\infty e^{-i\theta}$  to  $\infty e^{i\theta}$ , where  $\pi/2 < \theta < \omega$  (see e.g. Kato [2, p. 489]).

Given a  $\zeta_0$  as in (1.7), consider all the complex numbers  $z_j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, m$ ) lying to the left of  $C_0$  and satisfying  $e^{z_j} = \zeta_0$ . Obviously there are at most finitely many such  $z_j$ ; they are on a vertical line and equally spaced. We may assume that there is no  $z \in C_0$  with  $e^z = \zeta_0$ , by deforming  $C_0$  if necessary.

The assumption in (1.7) implies that  $z_j \notin \rho(A)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, m$ ). Hence we can find a small circle  $C_j$  about  $z_j$  such that  $C_j$  and its interior are in  $\rho(A)$ . We may assume that  $C_j$ , including  $C_0$ , are separated from one another.

We now construct a Dunford-type integral

$$(1.9) \quad S = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C \frac{e^z}{e^z - \zeta_0} (z-A)^{-1} dz \in B(X)$$

where

$$C = C_0 + C_1 + \dots + C_m,$$

the  $C_j$  being assumed to be coherently oriented (so that the  $C_j$  with  $j \geq 1$  are negatively oriented). Note that the integral (1.9) exists because the integrand is analytic for  $z \in C$  and decays exponentially at infinity on  $C_0$ .

We note that  $C_0$  in (1.8) may be replaced by  $C$ , since there is no contribution to the integral from the  $C_j$ , the integrand being analytic on each  $C_j$  and its interior. Then we can apply the Dunford integral calculus, to obtain (see e.g. [2, p. 44])

$$(1.10) \quad e^A S = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C \frac{e^{2z}}{e^z - \zeta_0} (z-A)^{-1} dz.$$

Here it should be noted that both  $e^z$  and  $e^z(e^z - \zeta_0)^{-1}$  are analytic in the closed domain bounded by  $C$ . The fact that this domain is unbounded causes no difficulty, since these functions decay rapidly at infinity.

Since

$$\frac{e^{2z}}{e^z - \zeta_0} = \left(1 + \frac{\zeta_0}{e^z - \zeta_0}\right)e^z,$$

it follows from (1.8) to (1.10) that

$$e^A S = e^A + \zeta_0 S.$$

Hence

$$(\zeta_0 - e^A)(1-S) = \zeta_0.$$

It follows that  $\zeta_0 \in \rho(e^A)$ , with

$$(\zeta_0 - e^A)^{-1} = \zeta_0^{-1}(1-S) \in B(X).$$

This proves (1.7), q.e.d.

## §2. Counterexamples --- fractional powers of accretive operators.

In this section we show that the counterexample of fractional integrals mentioned in §0 is not an isolated phenomenon.

**Theorem 3.** Let  $H$  be a Hilbert space. Let  $B \in B(H)$  be accretive. Then the fractional powers  $B^\alpha$  are well defined and form a holomorphic semigroup for  $\operatorname{Re} \alpha > 0$ , with

$$(2.1) \quad \|B^\alpha\| \leq \frac{\sin \pi \xi'}{\pi \xi' (1 - \xi')} \|B\|^\xi e^{\pi |\eta|/2} \quad (\xi = \operatorname{Re} \alpha > 0)$$

where  $\eta = \operatorname{Im} \alpha$  and  $\xi' = \xi - [\xi]$ . If in particular 0 is not an eigenvalue of  $B$ , then  $B^\alpha$  is strongly continuous for  $\operatorname{Re} \alpha > 0$ , and  $\{B^{i\eta}; -\infty < \eta < \infty\}$  is a strongly continuous group with

$$(2.2) \quad \|B^{i\eta}\| \leq e^{\pi |\eta|/2}.$$

If, in addition,  $B$  is quasi-nilpotent, then the generator  $iA$  of the group  $\{B^{i\eta}\}$  has empty spectrum, while  $e^{\pm iA} = B^{\pm i}$  have nonempty spectra away from 0.

**Remark.** The estimate (2.2) is sharp; equality holds for  $k(x,y) = 1$  (see [1, p. 665]).



Proof. Theorem 3 was proved in Kato [3] except for the last assertion regarding the case when  $B$  is quasi-nilpotent. In this case the semigroup  $\{B^\xi; \xi > 0\}$  is of type  $-\infty$  (i.e.  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow +\infty} \xi^{-1} \log \|B^\xi\| = -\infty$ ), so that its generator  $A$  has empty spectrum. (Note that  $\{B^\xi\}$  has generator  $A$  if  $\{B^{i\eta}\}$  has generator  $iA$ .) Since  $\{B^{i\eta}\}$  is a group, on the other hand, it is obvious that  $e^{\pm iA} = B^{\pm 1} \in B(X)$  have nonempty spectra away from 0.

Example. There are abundant examples of operators  $B$  satisfying the conditions of Theorem 3. Let  $k(x,y)$  be a continuous, hermitian symmetric, nonnegative-definite kernel on  $[0,1] \times [0,1]$ .  $k(x,y)$  defines an integral operator  $K \in B(H)$ , where  $H = L^2(0,1)$ , such that  $K^* = K \geq 0$ . Let  $B$  be the associated Volterra operator:

$$(2.3) \quad Bu(x) = \int_0^x k(x,y)u(y)dy \quad (u \in H).$$

Then  $B$  is quasi-nilpotent and accretive, since  $2 \operatorname{Re}(Bu, u) = (Ku, u) \geq 0$ .  $B$  has no eigenvalue 0 if  $K$  is strictly positive, since  $Bu = 0$  implies  $(Ku, u) = 0$  by the remark above. But  $B$  may have no eigenvalue 0 even when  $K$  is only semi-definite. The simplest example of  $B$  is given by  $k(x,y) = 1$ . Then  $B$  is a simple integration, and  $\{B^\alpha\}$  is exactly the fractional integrals considered in §0.

### §3. The spectral bound and the type.

If  $A$  is a closed linear operator in  $X$ , we define the spectral bound of  $A$  by

$$(3.1) \quad \operatorname{spb} A = \sup \operatorname{Re} \sigma(A) = \sup \{\operatorname{Re} \lambda; \lambda \in \sigma(A)\}.$$

We set  $\operatorname{spb} A = -\infty$  if  $\sigma(A)$  is empty.

If  $A$  generates a strongly continuous semigroup  $\{e^{tA}; t \geq 0\}$ , the type of  $A$  is defined by

$$(3.2) \quad \operatorname{type} A = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} t^{-1} \log \|e^{tA}\| = \log \operatorname{spr} e^A < +\infty,$$

where  $\operatorname{spr}$  denotes the spectral radius. (type  $A$  is usually referred to the semigroup  $\{e^{tA}\}$  rather than to the generator  $A$ , but we use the notation  $\operatorname{type} A$  as a convenient abuse.)

Theorem 1 shows that

$$(3.3) \quad \text{spb } A \leq \text{type } A \quad (< +\infty)$$

if  $A$  generates a  $C_0$ -semigroup. (Actually it is true for more general semigroups.)

Theorem 2 shows that equality holds in (3.3) if  $A$  generates a holomorphic semigroup. (Again it is true for more general semigroups.)

Theorem 3 shows that equality in (3.3) need not hold even for the generator  $A$  of a strongly continuous group; indeed one has  $\text{spb } A = -\infty$  while  $|\text{type } A| < \pi/2$  in Theorem 3.

It may be noted that Greiner-Voigt-Wolff [4] gives examples of positivity-preserving  $C_0$ -semigroups  $\{e^{tA}\}$  on certain function spaces for which  $\text{spb } A = -\infty$  and  $\text{type } A = 0$ .

In fact little is known, beyond holomorphic semigroups (or, more generally, norm-continuous semigroups), about the question of when equality holds in (3.3).

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